

Organic Perspectives

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New Zealand Added to E.U.'s Third Country List; U.S. Formerly Requests Listing

On June 29, 2002, the EU published in their Official Journal the addition of New Zealand to the list of third countries allowed to import organic products into the E.U. without import licenses from member states. According to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1162/2002, after New Zealand submitted their request to be listed "the examination of this information and consequent discussion with the authorities of New Zealand has led to the conclusion that in that country the rules governing production and inspection of agricultural products are equivalent to those laid down in Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91" (the E.U.'s organic regulation). Other countries currently listed include Argentina, Australia, Israel, Hungary, and Switzerland.

The U.S. formerly sent a request in June to the E.U. to be added to the third country list, noting that the U.S. National Organic Standards will be fully implemented on October 21, 2002. Discussions between the U.S. and the E.U. concerning this request are expected to begin this year.

For further information, contact Kelly Strzelecki, (202) 690-0522, kelly.strzelecki@fas.usda.gov.

USDA Announces Fiscal 2003 Tariff-rate Quotas For Specialty Sugar, Including Organic

On July 30, 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the fiscal year 2003 tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for raw, refined and specialty sugar. The total specialty sugar allocation is 16,656 metric tons raw value (18,360 short tons raw value). USDA will administer this allocation in two tranches. The first, totaling 1,656 metric tons, will open October 30. All specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. A second tranche, totaling 15,000 tons, will open November 19. It will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently commercially produced in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources. The inclusion of organic sugar was done at the request of organic sugar users in the food industry and importers of organic sugar. Supplies of organic sugar should now be sufficient to produce organic processed products for domestic use and export. For further information, contact Ronald Lord, (202) 720-6939, Ronald.Lord@fas.usda.gov or Richard Blabey, (202) 720-2916, Richard.Blabey@fas.usda.gov.

Quebec Announces It's Organic Food Merchant Publication

The Conseil d'Accreditation du Quebec (CAQ - Quebec Accreditation Board) has published its first official list of Quebec Organic Product Merchants as of July 15, 2002. This list will serve as an authorized reference of merchants of agro-organic products in the Quebec province. Current merchants have agreed to adhere to regulations "relative to acquisition" of agro-products bearing the organic terms and originating from outside of Quebec and intended for resale. All organic products originating outside of Quebec used by listed producers must be certified according to rules established by CAQ or recognized as compliant by CAQ. For more details on the Quebec Organic Products Merchants list, visit CAQ Internet site at <http://www.caqbio.org/>.

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Free Advertising: Organic and Natural Products In October!

Are you a U.S. company exporting organic/natural products? On October 4, 2002 USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) will have a special "Organic and Natural Product in October" Buyer Alert newsletter that will highlight the range of high quality American organic and natural products available.

The FAS Buyer Alert Service is a proven way to inform foreign buyers about products and the companies that offer them. FAS distributes this biweekly newsletter overseas in 75 countries to more than 17,000 buyers worldwide. In the last two years, \$30 million in sales were attributed to this service.

Normally there is a \$15 fee for each announcement, which provides a product description, offer-terms, and information about the company. However, for "Organic and Natural Products in October" edition, U.S. companies are invited to try one free Buyer Alert. (Only organic or natural products are eligible for the fee waiver.) The submission deadline is September 30.

To participate, go to the Organic Products Web site at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/organics.html> to link to the on-line registration form. For further information contact: Claire Klotz, (202) 720-8557, claire.klotz@fas.usda.gov.

New Zealand Agricultural Situation Agribusiness Report

New Zealand organics exports are forecast to reach US\$240 million by 2006 mainly driven by dairy giant Fonterra's planned entry into the organics scene. Pipfruit export increases are likely to peak at 950,000 trays in the next few years. Organic kiwifruit exports may stagnate at the current 2.3 million trays but this will be dependent on price premiums over conventional fruit. Organic frozen processed vegetable exports are likely to stagnate due to supply constraints rather than lack of price premiums. A national minimum organic standard is currently being developed in consultation with the industry. For the full report, refer to NZ2023. http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/gain_display_report.asp?Rep_ID=145783534.

Marketing Arm Increases Price Differential To Attract More Producers of Kiwifruit

Last month's decision by Zespri (a marketing arm for New Zealand kiwifruit) to support organic kiwifruit growers by attempting to maintain a price differential of \$2.30 per tray as compared to conventionally grown green kiwifruit has been met with some opposition. Zespri says there is a need to continue to support the organic kiwifruit industry as its international customer base expects a consistent supply of conventional (green & gold line) as well as the organic variety of kiwifruit. Concerns about exports of organic fruit to Japan that must be fumigated, preventing its marketability as organic, also has affected organic production of kiwifruit in New Zealand. In addition, Zespri has suggested a short-term price support to ensure continued production (and to support the established price differential) as incentive. For the full report, refer to NZ2018.

http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/gain_display_report.asp?Rep_ID=145684015.

International Updates: Turkey, India, & The United Kingdom

Turkey: The Turkish Ministry for agriculture has published a new regulation covering the principles and practice of organic farming. The regulation entered into force on July 11, 2002. (Source: <http://www.organicts.com>)

India: The Government of India launched the country's first "India Organic" logo on July 26, 2002. The logo will be used as an authentication mechanism for various organic products. (Source: <http://au.news.yahoo.com>)

United Kingdom: On July 29, 2002, the U.K. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs published its 21-point Action Plan to help the British organic food and farming sector develop. The Action Plan looks at the organic food chain as a whole and seeks to address the key issues that will assist the development of the sector. (Source: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>)

USDA News

AMS-NOP has produced a table delineating various degrees of organic product content for corresponding labeling requirements. It includes 100 percent organic composition to claims of organic ingredients occurring among conventionally produced ingredients. To view table, visit

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/LabelingTable073102.pdf>.

Upcoming Events

International

October 27-29, 2002 - Grocery Innovations; A major retail grocery industry trade show, Toronto, Canada.

<http://www.groceryinnovations.com>. Contact information: Teresina Chin, (202) 720-9423, Teresina.Chin@fas.usda.gov.

May 19-20, 2003 – ORGANEX, Organic Food Show, Paris, France. Contact information: <http://fr.organex.net> or Caroline Joucla-Fabre or Paola Goyon, (33-1) 41 18 8618, paola_goyon@groupepm.com or caroline_joucla-fabre@groupepm.com.

October 18-20, 2003 – NATEXPO (formally the DIETETIC), Organic Health and Dietetic Trade Show, Paris, France. Contact information: Sylvie Dalouche, (33-1) 49 09 6068, sdalouche@comexpo-paris.com.

March 23-26, 2003 – International Food and Drink Exhibition 2003; The United Kingdom's largest international food and drink exhibition and one of the top five food exhibitions in the world, London, United Kingdom. Organic products is on the best product prospects list for this USDA-endorsed show.

<http://www.ife.co.uk>. Contact information: Sharon Cook, USDA/FAS Trade Show Office, (202) 720-3425, Sharon.Cook@fas.usda.gov.



Editors Note: As publishers of *The Organic Perspectives Newsletter*, USDA-FAS-AgExport Services (AGX) continuously strives to maintain a partnership with the organic food community by sharing information and providing export assistance through our many export program services. For more information on how we might support your company in establishing opportunities abroad, please contact our office at (202) 690-3576.

Domestic - 2002

October 3-6 - Natural Products Expo East, Washington, DC. <http://www.naturalproductsexpo.com>. Contact information: New Hope Media, 1-866-458-4935, tradeshows@newhope.com.

October 13-16: New Products Conference at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Scottsdale, AZ. <http://www.preparedfoods.com/npc/npc.asp>. Contact information: (630) 694-4347, whalenm@bnp.com.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Organic Trade Association - comprehensive listing of organics/sustainable agriculture events: <http://www.ota.com>

FAS, AgExport Services Division's Organic Page
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/organics.html>

FAS's Trade Shows and Other Marketing Events - a complete list of international food and trade shows including those for conventional products.
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/agexport/EventQuery.asp>

National Organic Program Web site - <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>



*Edited, written, and compiled by Pamela McKenzie,
AgExport Services/Marketing, Tel: (202) 205-3771
Fax: (202) 690-0193*

E-mail: mckenzie@fas.usda.gov
